United Nations A/68/775

General Assembly

Distr.: General
3 March 2014
English
Original: Spanish

Sixty-eighth session
Agenda items 14 and 19

Integrated and coordinated implementation of and follow-up to the outcomes of the major United Nations conferences and summits in the economic, social and related fields

Sustainable development

Letter dated 24 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a declaration of solidarity with the fraternal Ecuadorian people in their just cause against the aggression perpetrated by Chevron-Texaco in the Ecuadorian Amazon, which was signed in Havana on 27 January 2014 by more than 20 Cuban civil society organizations (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have this declaration circulated as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly, under agenda items 14 and 19.

(*Signed*) Rodolfo **Reyes Rodríguez**

14-25169 (E) 100314 100314

Please recycle

Annex to the letter dated 24 February 2014 from the Permanent Representative of Cuba to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Declaration of solidarity with the fraternal Ecuadorian people in their just cause against the aggression perpetrated by Chevron-Texaco in the Ecuadorian Amazon

The Cuban United Nations Association's working group on the Chevron-Texaco in Ecuador question, which includes Cuban and international civil society institutions and organizations based in Cuba, as well as eminent persons in the scientific, cultural, media and academic fields, met in Havana, Cuba, on 27 January 2014 and issued the following declaration:

1. We strongly condemn the actions of Chevron-Texaco in the Ecuadorian Amazon, and express our solidarity and support for the just cause of the fraternal Ecuadorian people.

2. We reject the irresponsible and neocolonial practices of transnational corporations which, operating in countries of the global South, have violated the human rights of our peoples and threatened our natural resources in their quest for unlimited profits.

3. We demand that Chevron-Texaco take responsible and effective action to address the incalculable damage inflicted on the environment and the population, and we emphasize transnational corporations' obligation to take responsibility for the costs and implementation of the clean-up and environmental restoration of the affected ecosystems; to repair the damage inflicted on the national and local economies; and to answer for crimes against human health, sources of drinking water and other significant resources and values, as well as the destruction of communities.

4. We denounce the tactics used by Chevron-Texaco to misinform and mislead international public opinion by claiming that the Ecuadorian Government and the local communities are responsible for the aforementioned damage, and we emphasize that the truth must be told, particularly in the light of the media campaign waged by that company through various platforms, in which it has exploited the dominant positions of major media outlets controlled by powerful elites in the United States and other imperial Powers with a view to eluding a historic judgement affirming the right of the affected communities in the Amazon to compensation for the damage they have suffered.

5. We stress that, for international justice to be done, arbitral tribunals must perform their duties impartially and in accordance with international law, and must base their judgements on rulings previously handed down by Ecuadorian courts.

6. We support the actions and echo the appeals of the numerous international organizations and bodies calling for solidarity with the Ecuadorian Government and people.

7. We agree to coordinate and implement measures to denounce the impunity enjoyed by Chevron-Texaco in the Ecuadorian Amazon and to open channels of communication with a view to disseminating the truth. We support the adoption of relevant United Nations initiatives and undertake to make arrangements

to have this declaration circulated as a document of the sixty-eighth session of the General Assembly.

8. We reiterate our full solidarity with the fraternal Government and people of the Republic of Ecuador and our full support for this campaign in defence of the sovereignty and self-determination of Ecuador.